

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references cited in the March 17, 2002, August 13, 2004, and December 22, 2004, Information Disclosure Statements and for returning initialed forms PTO/SB/08 A&B.

Applicants request that the Examiner acknowledge the claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and also receipt of the certified copy of the priority document submitted with the application on March 17, 2004.

Applicants have canceled claims 1-15 and added new claims 16-39 that are supported by the specification and drawings. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. App. No. 2003/0064758 to Mizuta et al. ("Mizuta"). Claims 1-15 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. App. No. 2004/0248628 to Taninai ("Taninai"). These rejections are moot given that claims 1-15 have been canceled.

Applicants respectfully submit that the new claims are patentable over the prior art.

Addressing new independent claim 16, neither Mizuta nor Taninai discloses or suggests at least an upper unit comprising a first engagement portion being adapted to have said perpendicular opening and closing shaft inserted therein, and a second engagement portion being adapted to have said connecting member arranged therein, as recited in the claim.

Mizuta relates to a foldable portable information terminal, comprising an upper unit 201, a lower unit 101 and a hinge 300 that connects the upper unit 201 to the lower unit 101. The

hinge 300 comprises a first rotation axis 301 and a second rotation axis 302. The first rotation axis 301 is rotatably fixed in a direction approximately perpendicular to the operation surface. The second rotation axis 302 is rotatably fitted to a position at approximately the center in a thickness direction of the upper unit 301.

Taninai relates to a portable terminal, comprising a first housing 11, a second housing 12 and a hinge shaft 13. The first housing 11 and the second housing 12 are mutually turnably connected via the hinge shaft 13.

Figs. 4A and 4B of Mizuta and Figs. 21-24 of Taninai clearly show that the upper housing does not include a first engagement portion adapted to have a perpendicular opening and closing shaft inserted therein and a second engagement portion adapted to have a connecting member therein. On the contrary, the present claimed invention relates to a folding electric device having an upper unit, a lower unit and a connecting member that electrically connects the upper unit to the lower unit, and a hinge that connects the upper unit to the lower unit.

As one example of the claimed invention only, the hinge (6) includes a perpendicular opening and closing shaft (105) to perpendicularly open and close the upper unit (2) with respect to the lower unit (3), and a horizontal rotation shaft (101) connected to the lower unit (3) to horizontally rotate the upper unit (2) with respect to the lower unit (3). The upper unit (2) includes a first engagement portion (203) adapted to have the perpendicular opening and closing shaft (105) inserted therein and a second engagement portion (202) adapted to have the connecting member (106) arranged therein.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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Since neither Mizuta nor Taninai discloses or suggests the invention as claimed in claim 16, claim 16 is patentable over the prior art. Claims 17-39, which depend from independent claim 16, are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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